



## Open Space Committee

Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021.

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: Conducted by Zoom remote participation

### Meeting Minutes

Present: Ann LeRoyer, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Brian Kelder, Emily Nink, Wendy Richter, David White, Emily Sullivan, Zach Vaillette, Krista Moravec (Horsley Witten), Lena Porell (Horsley Witten)

Absent: Teresa DeBenedictis, John Pickle, Phil Lasker

#### 1. Open Space and Recreation Plan (2015-2022)

- a. The Committee reviewed a draft Public Participation Plan, drafted by Horsley Witten. Ann and Emily N had made revisions to the draft plan, which the Committee reviewed. Ann volunteered to merge the organization lists in the draft plan with Zach's excel spreadsheet of town groups, board, and committees to create one list of stakeholders.
- b. The Committee discussed different public engagement strategies, including social media, posters, project webpage, surveys, video recordings and interviews (ACMi), and public workshops. Wendy stated that she will lead the Committee's social media outreach through the Committee's Facebook account. The Committee agreed that flyers could be posted to various community bulletin boards and in park/open space boards.
- c. The Committee discussed conducting more targeted outreach to environmental justice neighborhoods by using door hangers and lawn signs in public spaces.
- d. The Committee scheduled the first public workshop for June 10, 2021. Horsley Witten will send a draft detailed agenda for the Committee to review with them at the May 27 meeting. The workshop will be held virtually. The Committee can use Zoom break-out rooms to facilitate small-group discussions during the workshop. Horsley Witten and the Committee will create a survey after the workshop to gather feedback on open space and recreation during the summer. A second workshop will likely be held in the late fall.

#### 2. Review/approve Minutes of February 25, 2021

- a. Minutes of the February 25 meeting were reviewed and approved by all members present.

#### 3. Updates: CPA/CDBG projects

- a. The Committee reviewed the open space and recreation projects being submitted as final CPA applications for FY2022 grant awarding. These projects include: renovating the Spy Pond North Beach Ramp with porous pavement material, renovating Spy Pond Park Playground, developing a Town-wide Public Land Management Plan, renovating Hurd Field, and replacing the Robbins Farm Park slides.

- b. The Res Phase 2 project has contracted SumCo to complete the perimeter, beach, and playground work. There is enough funding in the budget to include some add-alternatives, which the Park & Recreation Commission is still deciding on.

4. Other News and Reports

- a. Relocation planning for the VA memorial at Broadway Plaza is on hold.
- b. Mugar/Thorndike Place: Updated materials were submitted to the ZBA in January and February. BETA, the third-party reviewer hired by the Town, has submitted memos reviewing the updated materials. The ZBA will begin drafting a decision and discuss it at public hearings in April. The Committee agreed to send the ZBA a letter regarding the proposal. Ann will draft and circulate it.
- c. Mirak/1165R Mass Ave: Materials have been submitted to the ZBA for the comprehensive permit application, and the hearing process will continue through March and April.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 PM.

**2021 Meeting Dates** (usually 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month but note exceptions): April 29 (due to school vacation), May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28, November 11, December 9 (due to holidays)

Submitted by  
*Emily Sullivan*